May 5, 1967

Mr. John G. Christian
Suite #31
722 Montgomery St.
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear John:

My wife told me of your call. As soon as I got the message, because it was nighttime, I had the New Orleans operator try everyone of your name or initials in the phone book and everyone replied they did not know me. The next day I phoned your office, left a message, but got no response.

You exaggerate both my importance and my concept of it. My capacity for the work I am doing is sufficient for it and I will get it done. My target for the completion of the rough draft of MANCHESTER MACHIAVELLI: THE UNOFFICIAL UNINTENDED WHITEWASH is a month from now. It is the least important in my view, but first because of timing and because I believe public comprehension of the overall picture is essential. Then allowing for time I will again be spending in New Orleans, I thereafter, assuming I know the size of the page or possibly doing another private printing (which I do not believe will be necessary), I can complete WHITEWASH III: THE ARCHIVE in another month.

When you see all of this work, I think you will see a totality that will explain my intensity and determination and I think you will agree your suggestion of the need for further investigation is pessimistic.

There is an additional reason for the course I take: No one else sees this as I do, no one else does it as I do, and those who might have not the time. Collaboration in any event would delay, not hasten, what I shall be able to do alone. This is neither vanity nor optimism.

I will make no association with Ramparts for a very simple reason that I make explicit. They are untrustworthy and without scruple. I respect and admire their accomplishments, which I regard as important. I have met Keating. He was going to look me up when he was east; he has not. I spare you further on this. You may know them one way, I do another.

I am in entire accord with the motion picture to which I already have a sequel in mind that will come from my next work, but until you have cleared with John Starr, there is nothing I can commit myself to.

You are right in believing that I may "alarm a great many of our ostriched business and political leaders". That need not follow in a movie and it is essential to the task I have set myself that ultimately they will join me and there are signs some already do. Dell has insisted on an option on WHITEWASH III and they are hot for

MANCHESTER MACHIAVELLI. I have a deal with them on CIA WHITEWASH: OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS if they live up to it.

Phelan is, by intent or otherwise, a fink. I am satisfied he is wrong in his representation of whether or not Russo told Sciambra of the Ferrie party in their first interview and I regard as a touchstone to his intent his omission of what was public knowledge and what he as a qualified expert on the New Orleans Mafia must have known, his failure to mention Ferrie's connection with Marcello as his investigator and through Wray Gill who was lawyer to both.

My version of what is going on in New Orleans is simple: It follows the fact and doctrine of chapter 11 of WHITEWASH and chapter 7 of WHITEWASH II. The differences between us are slight. These are dedicated public servants of unquestionable sincerity and in the ancient tradition. What I was able to do in the five days I was there may be of interest in a movie, but for the moment I will say nothing about it.

That Mark Lane endorsed Garrison is a measure of his unerring commercial instincts, for what Garrison is doing is what Lane in his own writing deprecated. See the epilogue in WHITEWASH II.

I would like to know more about the book, OSWALD: THE TRUTH, about which I have not heard, including the author and publisher.

Your assumption of Roberts's inspiration is mine but I lack the proof. Is it available to you. I understand it is no secret his book is subsidized. He ignores, as does his publisher, my challenges to a ~~fxxx~~ confrontation.

Because I believe that ultimately there will be a market for my edited and collected work I have to now reserved all hardback and collateral rights. At that time I would agree to any reasonable retitling any publisher would desire with the probable exception of your very flattering suggestion, "The Weisberg Papers". I just am not that immodest.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of each of the books for Woody Allen. If you want any others, please let me know.

And I do hope you and John Starr can get together soon.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg